

SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

MINING JOURNAL,

AND

COMMERCIAL GAZETTE:

JOURNAL OF GEOLOGY, METALLURGY, AND MINERALOGY.

CONDUCTED BY

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P R E F A C E.

THE completion of the Fifth Volume of the MINING JOURNAL affords us the opportunity of again addressing our Subscribers in terms of congratulation on the success which has attended its publication—attributable, in a great degree, to the numerous Correspondents, whose communications give value to our columns, and which have been duly appreciated—while we have studiously endeavoured, by increased zeal and attention, to acknowledge the kindness we have received.

A reference to the Index will, perhaps, afford the best proof of the progress we have made—the completion of the First Volume of the SUPPLEMENT having fully justified the expectations we entertained when determining on the occasional enlargement of our publication. We have, in another place, adverted to a proposed alteration in the form of the SUPPLEMENT, which will in future be given monthly, combining, with its varied information, original papers on Mining—and thus rendering the publication of the “Mining Review” unnecessary, as, indeed, the SUPPLEMENT will comprehend all which would otherwise appear in the pages of that publication. In determining on this alteration, we flatter ourselves that we are consulting the wishes of our readers, as, in addition to the Mining intelligence conveyed in the JOURNAL weekly, a Supplemental Volume, published in Monthly Parts, without any extra charge, will afford information on all subjects appertaining to Geology, Mineralogy, and Metallurgy, and be occasionally illustrated by Engravings and Wood-cuts. To this portion of our publication we invite the attention of our Scientific readers, and more particularly those who have the means of rendering us assistance, by conveying the results of their observation and experience. The value and importance of the several subjects to which attention has been directed through the medium of our columns, render it unnecessary to dilate on the utility of a publication devoted to the Mining Interests; and if that some districts may appear to have been too exclusively considered, while others have been comparatively neglected, we can only regret that our information is not more universal—our pages being ever open to the insertion of communications on subjects of general interest to the Mining community.

As the only record of the “Proceedings of Public Companies,” we purpose in future furnishing reports of the meetings of “Joint-Stock Banks,” in addition to those of Mining and Railway Companies; and to do which effectively, and to render them of that value for reference, which is our object, it will be apparent to many of our Subscribers that it is in their power materially to facilitate this object, by communicating such information as they may acquire with reference to the operations or proceedings of the several companies in which they are embarked, or with which they may be connected.

By the proposed arrangement of MONTHLY SUPPLEMENTS, we shall also be enabled to give reports of the “Proceedings of Scientific Bodies,” with the usual Miscellaneous Intelligence, without encroaching on the space devoted to that species of information, which is more particularly directed to the interests and attention of Shareholders; and an alteration in their form will also, we are induced to believe, give satisfaction, in being rendered a more portable Volume, although comprising as much matter as now embodied in the JOURNAL.

In compliance with the wishes of several Subscribers, we purpose, as already observed, to embody in our columns information on the subject of “Joint-Stock Banks”—an interest at the present moment possessing no medium of communication—the publication of the *Economist*, a Journal devoted to that particular branch of investment of capital having been discontinued. We are fully sensible that Joint-Stock Banks possess not that vacillating interest which render a weekly journal necessary for the purpose of representing them, or of recording their proceedings, but combined with other matter, such as is presented to the readers of the MINING JOURNAL we can well conceive how important it is to watch and report their progress, as well as to note the several Calls, Dividends, or Notices of Meetings, which may be announced from time to time. We may observe, that we purpose continuing, as heretofore, to communicate, through our columns, the Reports of all Meetings of Railway Companies, and to collect all those details of operations which may be considered interesting; at the same time, that we shall carefully avoid the exclusion of any matter which may be more closely allied to Mining, and which must at all times be considered the leading feature in our JOURNAL.

In reviewing the Volumes already published, we may not be deemed presumptuous, if we refer to the present as an instance of the successful results which may be ever expected to attend perseverance and industry—the time having arrived when all prejudice has been overcome, and when the advantages attendant a publication like the present are fully acknowledged. It has at times been most irksome to animadvert on the conduct of parties and to expose abuses; but we have the pleasing reflection that we have never wittingly given offence, nor have we on any occasion gone out of our way to elicit facts or the attention of our readers, where we felt that an *expose* was necessary to protect the public, and at the same time to uphold the character of independence which the JOURNAL has ever sustained.

However satisfactory it is to find that public opinion has thus supported the publication—it is at the same time gratifying to contemplate that the support it has received has rendered it the only medium through which the Mineral Resources of Great Britain are represented. We refer with grateful pride to our present Number, in common with others which have appeared, as an evidence of the importance of Mining to the Nation at large, and cannot but feel fully sensible of the prominent station we enjoy as the organ of the Mining Interests.

Some years have now elapsed since the first appearance of the “Mining Review,” and which was the forerunner of the present publication—to its success is attributable the appearance of the MINING JOURNAL—and in amalgamating the two works, we hope to render the JOURNAL and SUPPLEMENT, not only deserving of the support and encouragement of our readers, but honourable to Great Britain—a country whose contributions to the promotion and promulgation of Science, have conferred benefits so essential, and one which will, we trust, ere long stand pre-eminent, from the encouragement it may afford through its Government.

The “School of Mines” is but slumbering—already has the “University of Durham” determined on the institution of a Professorship, having its attention directed to the branches most important in an education where Mining pursuits are involved; but this, we confess, however desirable as an approximation to the accomplishment of our views, is far from satisfying us; and never shall we be content until we see established a “Mining College” in England, with its Professors, its Library, and its Museum—and that this will be effected ere long, we believe there is no reason to doubt.

In closing this brief Address, we have only to express our sincere and grateful thanks to those who have joined with us in promoting the object of establishing and supporting a paper which should represent the Mining Interests, and the independence of which should form one of its principal claims to support. This being effected, our object is in one respect attained, while it will ever be our study to retain those kindly sentiments and feelings which we believe are entertained towards the MINING JOURNAL, and our labours in endeavouring to render it in every respect efficient and deserving of that encouragement which has attended its publication.